



# In The Swim



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## Information for Commercial Pool Operators and Owners

Clark County Public Health, Recreational Water Program

2016 Fall Newsletter

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Clark County has a new and improved website. Visit us at [www.clark.wa.gov](http://www.clark.wa.gov) to find helpful resources:

- Operation guidelines
- Printable logs for your daily/weekly tests
- Inspection results
- Injury report forms
- Links to resources such as CPO classes and CDC websites.



*Scan this with your smart phone for instant access to our website*

### INSPECTION:

In 2015 a policy was implemented to address repeating critical violations. Three consecutive critical violations will automatically result in a follow-up inspection with an associated fee. To prevent repeat violations, ensure that corrections are made in a timely manner and regular maintenance is occurring.

### Highlight: Where does your backwash wastewater go?

Routine backwashing of your pool and/or spa sand filter is necessary to maintain water clarity and increase the life of your filter. Proper disposal of backwash wastewater is important for protecting the public's health and our water resources. Dirty water from the filter may contain bacteria and viruses that need to be destroyed through the treatment process. This water may also contain nutrients and other organic matter that can cause algae blooms, and may contain high mineral content that can damage our rivers and streams if not disposed of properly. For this reason, all backwash wastewater must be disposed of through public sewer to be treated.

Refer to Clark County Code 13.26A for more information on water discharge.

### Highlight: Do you know when to close due to a safety risk?

Maintaining water quality, routine barrier checks, and inspecting emergency equipment are important for the safety of your bathers. One or more of the following conditions are considered too hazardous to keep your pool or spa open:

- Disinfectant levels are too low or too high.
- The drains are not visible due to cloudy water.
- Chemicals need to be hand fed.
- A fecal accident.
- Barrier gates and entry points are not self-closing and self-latching.



When closing is necessary, post a sign clearly stating the pool/spa is closed. If the closed pool or spa does not share the same barrier with an open pool or spa, lock the entry points to prevent access. Be sure to mark on your daily log sheet that the pool is closed.



## Tips for properly closing your pool for the season

When a recreational water facility is closing for the season, the owners are responsible for ensuring the pool does not create a nuisance or disease hazard. This can be done by securing the pool behind locked barriers, covering the pool with an approved safety cover, or marking the pool with a sign and maintaining water quality standards.

### **If the closed pool is in the same barrier as a year round pool or spa**

- Covered: The pool must be covered with a safety cover meeting ASTM standard F1346-91
- Uncovered: Post a sign stating the pool is closed. This sign should be located in a conspicuous location. Water quality standards and water clarity must be maintained. Log test results weekly.

### **If the closed pool does not share a barrier with a year round pool or spa**

- If your closed pool can be secured by locked barriers, this is adequate to prevent the public from accessing the closed pool. Keep in mind, however, that maintaining water quality and clarity standards is recommended to prevent conditions that may attract mosquitoes or other nuisances.

## Your recreational water team is here to help!

We are here to be your resource.

Contact us with any questions or code clarifications you may have.

To be connected to an Environmental Health Specialist, contact [eph@clark.wa.gov](mailto:eph@clark.wa.gov) or call (360) 397-8428.

We look forward to working with you!

## Are you planning any upgrades or remodels?

Did you know that the health department is a resource for you to ensure any changes are up to code? Getting input before you begin the work may avoid costly changes in the future.

Contact us for submittal requirements if you are planning any of the following:

Structural changes

Main drain changes

Barrier reconstruction

Clubhouse remodel

P.O. Box 9825

Vancouver, WA 98666

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/pools/pools.html>



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For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2322; **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** [ADA@clark.wa.gov](mailto:ADA@clark.wa.gov).